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## LOCAL CAP SQUADRON MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Members from the Condor Composite Squadron recently received recognition at the Finger Lakes Group annual awards banquet at the Avon Inn. Several members received notable awards and promotions from New York Wing Commander Colonel Austyn Granville, Jr.

Cadet Jonathan Fitch from Castile, was presented with the General Ira Eaker Award, by New York Wing Commander Colonel Granville, officially promoting him to the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel.

This award denotes successful completion of all sixteen achievements and four phases of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. CAP's newest award (1995) recognizes cadet completion of the academic, leadership, moral leadership and physical fitness curriculum in existence since 1964. The award honors the late Air Force General Ira C. Eaker, aviation pioneer, career military officer and one of the chief architects and visionaries of the US Air Force. Approximately 100 cadets per year complete Phase IV and will receive the Eaker Award.

Emily Wadsworth from Geneseo received her General Billy Mitchell Award officially promoting her to cadet Second Lieutenant. The second milestone award of the cadet program is the General Billy Mitchell Award which is earned after completing the first eight achievements of the cadet program. The cadets must pass an arduous 100 question examination testing leadership theory and aerospace topics. Since its inception over 30 years ago, over 42,000 cadets have earned this honor.

Cadet Lt. Colonel Jonathan Fitch also received the award for 2003 Finger Lakes Group Cadet of the Year.

Squadron Commander Captain Charles Miller and First Lieutenant Scott Gardner were presented with the Grover Loening Award by the Wing Commander. The award is given to Civil Air Patrol members who complete Level III of the Senior Member Professional Development Program. It recognizes those members who have dedicated themselves to leadership and personal development in the CAP. This award was first given in 1964 and honors the late aviation pioneer Grover Loening.

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The evening also marked the official presentation, by the Wing Commander, of a Change of Command Certificate presented to Lt. Colonel Diane Wojtowicz from Perry, who replaces Lt. Colonel Jim Pierson as Finger Lakes Group Commander.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization with more than 63,000 members nationwide. It performs 95% of continental U.S. search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs.

The Finger Lakes Group of CAP is comprised of five CAP squadrons including the Condor Composite Squadron headquartered at the Perry-Warsaw Airport.